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 In Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg—One Week  
 Daily with Sunday—15 cents  
 Daily without Sunday—10 cents  
 Sunday only—5 cents

Entered January 7, 1905, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1912.

## SOME POLITICAL SURPRISES.

It looks now as if Woodrow Wilson's election is certain. Even the present business revival can be interpreted as arising from the conviction that he will surely be chosen, and that conditions have already adjusted themselves to his platform and personality. Indeed, this very certainty of Democratic success is the greatest element of uncertainty. We do not mean that Fate is bound to cut down high hopes out of pure perversity, but American political history is so full of upsets and "haze-backs" that to assume success until the actual event of election seems a tempting of providence.

A veteran Philadelphia newspaperman gives to the Bulletin of the American Steel Association an interesting list of unexpected happenings in American politics. He points out that Grant could hardly get a commission in the army in 1861, while Lee refused the chief place. Ben Butler voted to nominate Jefferson Davis for President fifty-seven times, and Davis offered a reward for his capture less than two years afterward. When Jackson and Benton fought each other it did not seem probable that Benton would afterwards be Jackson's right hand in the presidency. Ingersoll declared that he would believe in a hell when Kentucky went Republican, and Kentucky has gone Republican. The outcry against the McKinley tariff elected President Cleveland, and Cleveland returned the compliment by doing much to assure McKinley's election. The new ballot law in Massachusetts was expected to overwhelm the Democrats, yet it elected a Democratic Governor. For the first time in fifty years there has been a Democratic senator from Maine. In 1872 the Governor Dix of New York was a Republican; the present Governor Dix is his Democratic son.

This is but a short list showing how uncertain is any political situation and how quickly the tide may change. It emphasizes the absolute need for steady, consistent work to put the election of Wilson beyond the field of a hope into an accomplished fact. Any resting on the oars, with the fond belief that victory has already been won, would be but another example of the supreme ability of the Democratic party to achieve political folly. Wilson is not yet elected. Work and money are both needed to insure his success. It would be wise to read this handwriting on the walls of a hundred years, and remember that the victories of national parties must be paid for with ceaseless vigilance.

## PROPOSED BANKING REFORM CONGRESS.

The suggestion of the "National Citizens' League" that a national congress of mercantile interests be called to work out to definite conclusion the problems of banking and currency reform is heartily endorsed by leading commercial and financial papers of the country, among them the New York Journal of Commerce and the American Banker. These and the other contemporaries forming the movement, are one in the opinion that reform is vitally needed, are practically in entire accord as to the specific essential changes demanded, and what is more to the point of their endorsement of the suggestions, they are also one in despatching of the passage by Congress of any measure of relief originating in that body or formulated by any commission thereof. Having given the reasons or failure of congressional plans, prominent among them "political timidity," and conflict of great selfish financial interest, the Journal of Commerce argues that the proposed congress would prove valuable in providing a fresh start in behalf of legislation, that would assure the community of no desire to impose any particular scheme upon the country; that it would demonstrate a disposition to listen to the views of the "less conspicuous" factors in the banking and currency reform propaganda, which would tend to inspire popular confidence that the reforms advanced were not the conception of circumscribed circles and prompted by particular interests. The Journal of Commerce does not expect that the conference or congress would bring forward anything new, since as it has previously indicated "the essentials of reform" are conceded. But it is satisfied that the multitude of counsel would clarify the minds of some who now criticize present proposals for legislation, and would enlist their support by showing them that they have nothing different to suggest; that it might also serve the purpose of convincing some over-assertive leaders that the first step in legislation will probably have to be tentative and incomplete, and that progress can be obtained only by the adoption of very moderate first steps toward reform. Perhaps, continues

our contemporary, it would bring about the classification of the different proposals in the order of their necessity and in such a way as to show which elements in the program could be accepted without interfering with advancing the acts. The weight of these considerations must be obvious.

The American Banker, after laying especial stress upon the "admitted impossibility" of seeing the passage of the currency bill of the "National Monetary Commission," the cost of which by the way, was \$300,000, and following expression of conviction that at the congress "an accurate idea of the propositions to which a majority of business men could accede," could be gathered, continues thus:

"When what is really wanted has been determined, the proposals for which there was a clear majority must be embodied in a bill for submission to Congress. It is felt that the Senate and House are spurred on to action by the measure of insistent public opinion, nothing will be done, and the present incongruous and mischievous currency system will be left untouched for an indefinite period to come. Such an evil is too serious in its possible consequences to be contemplated with complacency, and the ample cause for the irrefragable activity of the National Citizens' League at this time."

We see no escape on the part of any intelligent business man from the logic of our contemporary first quoted, from the American Banker's conclusions, or from the fact that the suggested congress points the only way out. The solution of the problem and the only solution, judging from experience with congressional and political failures to meet and deal practically, bear lively and honestly with the issue, less in a pressure upon congress by the general commercial and business forces that will compel it to act, that it dare not resist, and that pressure can be brought to bear none too soon, if we would avoid another of those financial crises and disturbances that confessedly are inevitable so long as the existing inadequate, unbusinesslike, antiquated system obtains. Nor in view of the undeniable exceptionally prosperous conditions of the country over, could the pressure be exerted, or the work begun, at a more propitious time—a time when changes would involve the least danger of affecting injuriously any interest, if, in truth, they could have such effect at all.

## INCREASED, HOME RULE INDISPENSABLE.

One hundred and thirty-seven of the 349 acts of the General Assembly of Virginia of 1912 deal with matters of local self-government. Perhaps a few of these may involve the general powers of the State, but the remainder are concerned only with local matters which do not concern the people of the State, but only the people of the specific cities, counties or districts affected. When more than one-third of the measures passed by a legislature deal solely with local matters it is high time to call a halt and to consider whether it would not be well for us to demand drastic reform. The constitutional provision for the settlement of local legislation by the General Assembly is out of line with advanced principles of government. The function of the State Legislature is to formulate laws which will effect all the people of the State and not merely the people of isolated community units. Local self-government is a prized phrase, but in Virginia it does not mean as much as it should. In so far as the people of a given community can govern themselves without violating the law or trespassing upon the rights of other communities or the welfare of the State, just so far that community ought to rule itself under the liberal general laws laid down by the State.

Editor Land of the Blackstone Courier, a serious-minded legislator himself, shortly after the adjournment of the last General Assembly declared that the constitutional provision as to local legislation amounts to nothing. "The local representative seeks for what is wanted and it is given him, usually without question from anyone," he says accurately. "In other words, all local legislation is practically done by the local representative." The remedy which he suggests is logical: that the powers of city councils and county boards of supervisors be greatly enlarged under necessary restrictions. What is now entrusted to one man, the local representative, may safely be trusted to the several supervisors and counties.

Local legislation not only chokes off general legislation, but takes precedence of it. Every member gets a local bill that he is anxious to get through, and there is a sort of unwritten compact that each legislator must help the other to get his measure through. The State measures concerning all the people are laid on the side table.

If the broadest practicable degree of home rule is not vested in the cities, the inevitable result will be the extension of the present legislative session or the introduction of annual sessions. The people desire neither of these. Mr. Land is correct when he observes that the State is growing, the communities are growing, and consequently their business is growing. More business means that there must be more time to consider it. While the Legislature wastes time now, it cannot be denied that the press of its work is rapidly becoming too great to handle.

There is but one rational remedy, and that is the re-vesting of the people with broad powers of local self-government. In other States that is the successful method adopted, and it is one we must adopt here. The next General Assembly must consider the problem seriously and blaze the way for its own relief, so that

State reforms may not be impeded by the incorporation of the town of Xenia or the modification of the charter of Bristol. Let the counties and cities take care of themselves and then the State of Virginia will be able to take care of the interests, progress and welfare of her whole people.

**BULLETIN BOARD PSYCHOLOGY.**  
 Believers in mental telepathy might well think they had found proof of the existence of thought waves extending all the way from New York to Richmond in the phenomenal of several thousand persons before The Times-Dispatch baseball bulletin board swayed by the flickering messages from a few lights as if they were actually viewing with their own eyes the struggle for the championship between the Giants and the Red Sox. What they really did see was an amazing evidence of the mechanical ingenuity and mental quickness of the American people.

Through the intervention of electricity over the telegraph wires and in the colored globes, these ardent fans were able to follow the most intricate plays of what is probably the most intricate of all field games, not only almost as the plays were made, but with the keenest possible realization of what each one meant, and how the fortunes of war hovered now here, now there. He who says that Americans have no imagination should stand in Capitol Square, and learn how even the children can take the barren flash of lights and build it into a thrilling drama of sport. There was no reality save a piece of black-board marked as a baseball diamond, and the apparently unintelligible change of lights, yet for the inward vision of the crowd, these simple elements were woven into a full and blood-stirring narrative.

Quick wit was never clearer shown than in the almost instant response of the crowd to the signals. The man who turned the switches seemed to control the common mind by the same twist. It was like playing an organ. Before the cheers of the spectators in New York had died out, from the local gathering would come the same cry of "He's out" or "He passed Speaker on purpose." Such a marvelous knowledge of the science of baseball, the common possession of thousands, says much for the place of the sport itself, and for the alertness of the ordinary mind. The observer is amazed at the ingenuity that transmits knowledge almost as rapidly as thought, and even more astounded at the psychology that interprets the symbols into a living and picturesque reality.

## HOW HE GOT THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT.

There is old-fashioned hard New England sense in the Providence Journal's explanation of Roosevelt's explanation about having had trust money used for him without his knowledge and against his consent. The Rhode Island newspaper is reminded in this case of the way the little boy got it out of dear old grandmother: "Ma told me I mustn't say I wanted a doughnut, grandma."

## COLLEGE STUDENTS' HONESTY.

For fifteen years Congressman McKinley, of Illinois, has been lending money to students at the State university upon the sole security of their character and habits. In all that period he has not lost a cent of principal or interest. The experience has so confirmed his faith in young manhood that he has given the university \$12,000 as a nucleus for a permanent loan fund for deserving students. Such an evidence of honesty should receive wide attention. The honest debtor gets little publicity, while the absconder or swindler or cheat is widely advertised. Yet honesty is commoner than some consider it. Trust in college in the honesty of college students is rarely betrayed. The academic atmosphere is not suited to the dishonest or mendacious student; in every college the sense of honor is so strong that the dishonorable man is soon detected and driven out.

Mr. McKinley's action is a fine tribute to that great and courageous body of youth who are "working their way through college. Carrying the double burden of scholastic tasks and the winning of a livelihood, these men exemplify the true dignity of labor. Earnest, mature, brave, they are undaunted by adversity, but go from defeat to defeat until victory looms up.

An aviator ought to give his wife alimony just because he is an aviator. One sign of the times is the eager-looking man in a cap teaching a bird-dog to retrieve.

One good thing about the New York fanmen is that their feuds do not include the ordinary citizen. We gather from the sporting authorities that either the New York Giants or the Boston Red Sox will win the world's championship.

The Progressives do not want to be endorsed by the Independence League. To talk about independence is less majestic to the Emperor.

The Taft smile has become the Taft frown.

Mrs. William Flinn, wife of the Pennsylvania Progressive leader, rebuked her husband for extravagance when he testified before the Senate probers that he had contributed \$14,000 this year to political campaigns. She ought to have given him a good spanking.

Whether this country is on the verge of war we don't know, but one of the Governor's colonels was seen in full uniform the other day.

## On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Meukow

A Dream.  
 I had a dream the other night it was a dream of pure delight. I thought I dwelt upon a pleasant tale where everyone enjoyed good health and revealed in a lot of wealth. And everybody wore a genial smile. There wasn't any gossip there. It was a place beyond compare. And people just minded their own affairs.

There was no scandal there to shock. And people had no time to knock. And no one lugged around a lot of cars. The statesmen throw no verbal bricks. There was no talk of politics. There were no tin-horn speakers in the place. There were no campaign arguments, no animosities intense. And conversation was a winning grace. There were no scorching autos there. No popcorn whistles rent the air. No agents selling books stopped at the door. No young girl singers spoiled the night and put the fickle sleep to flight. No storytellers made the life a bore.

No pianolas banged away all through the night and through the day. There were no servant questions to be solved. There were no grocers' bill to pay, no pessimist to have his pay. No people in divorce suits were involved. There were no shows all to the punk. No sleepers with an upper bunk. And no bit of tipping there to do. Of course, dear reader, this may seem absurd even for a passing dream.

It is absurd, for it can never come true.

## From the Hickeyville Clarion.

Amy Tibbs has got three leaks in the roof of his house and when it rains he sends his kids up on the roof to sit on 'em. He has got enough kids to cover two more leaks if the same should occur.

Elmer Jones has worn out four hammocks for Miss Amy Pringle and her father says if Elmer don't stop soon there won't be any more hammocks. Amy says these home-grown Romeos ain't much good. It takes a travelin' man to pop the question quick, but the trouble with the latter is that they are all married.

Luke Butts of this town, who hasn't been much of a success up to this time, has got a job as porter in a Chicago hotel and expects to own an automobile in a month and to retire from active business life by the end of the fall season.

When you dodge an automobile you get in front of a motorcycle, so what's the use?

Doc Hanks, our village dentist, says the graveyards of to-day are the goldmines of to-morrow. Doc put in three fillings last week, and it wasn't much of a week, either.

## My Baby.

(A poem for every father.)  
 I've heard a lot of babies squall, I've heard 'em eat and west, But, after hearin' of 'em all, I like my kid's yell best.

It doesn't worry me a bit, For every time I hear Him tummy up to his heart's content, It's music to my ear.

Your own kid's voice is always sweet, No matter what the key, In all the world no one can sing So charmingly as he.

You think it's cute when your own child Cuts loose with might and main; It always is the neighbor's kind That drives you half insane.

## A New Department.

One of the Michigan papers has established a new department which records birth, marriages and deaths all under one head. The head is as follows:

HATCHED, MATCHED AND SNATCHED.

## Voice of the People

Where's the Remedy—A Woman's Viewpoint.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—Sir—I have noticed with great interest the discussion in our newspapers concerning the prevalence of the social evil in our city. There can be no doubt about the fact that there is a scourge and contagion afflicting our town life. What shall we do about it? One of our ministers said from the pulpit that the remedy is in the home, the State, the school. I agree with him that the parents in the home should inculcate moral principles by precept and by example. I also agree with him that the State and city should foster by laws the operation of these principles in the community life, making it easy to do right and hard to do wrong. Our boys and our girls are a part of our community life, and it is not enough that parents teach the way of rectitude in the home. During the adolescent period, especially, they

are more under the spell of environment. Sex at this period is uppermost in their thoughts, and should be guided aright at home and abroad. How important that our laws should protect our youth just here! At present they are so inadequate! What is the remedy?

Our men are so busy putting electric lights on Broad Street, improving our annexed territory, and "boosting Greater Richmond," that we must get our women roused on our moral needs. We must look after our children, not alone in the public home into which they go—sometimes to their ruin. It is a significant fact that in all the States where women have the suffrage the age of consent is above that in Virginia. In four of these it is twenty-one. In the only other one, California, where women have had the franchise less than a year, it is sixteen. In three of the Southern States where they are not supposed to touch politics, it is as low as ten.

Women to the rescue! Our men are loyal and true when our women are roused to their needs. They need us for the protection of our homes—private and public. Until we can vote we have no law to keep young girls from soliciting on Broad Street every night and enticing our young men into immoral acts. It is the shame of this fact, recognized trade? It is a known fact that young girls in their teens are hanging around moving picture shows and hearing young men in automobiles make a bit of change to buy a willow plume, or maybe more. The passion for dress in an adolescent girl is as great as any desire that a man has to make a simultaneous sexes must have compulsory education laws to equip these inefficient ones for an honest living. They can not starve, they must work, and we must compel them to learn to work.

Mothers, women of our town, what will you do about it?

Richmond.

Politics and the V. P. I. Presidency.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—Sir—I have read with interest the editorial in your issue of August 21st, "The Future of V. P. I. the Issue." I am an alumnus of this institution and heartily endorse the qualifications and hearty endorsement for the successor to Dr. Barringer, and agree with you that V. P. I. just now forces a crisis of the greatest importance.

I am, however, surprised to see that you have made no mention of my own qualifications, and as far as my own qualifications go, I am a most important qualification, and as far as my own qualifications go, I am a most important qualification, and as far as my own qualifications go, I am a most important qualification.

## THE MAN THAT COMMITTED THE MURDER.

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright, 1912, by John T. McCutcheon.)



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## QUERIES &amp; ANSWERS

Legislative Council.

Is there any legal means by which the highest Federal and State courts may be coerced into causing the present existing practice of reading words into the law which they are sworn to execute?

Twenty of it. The will of a free people is and of right ought to be supreme in the shaping of their laws. The usual contrivance of a legislative body to shape these laws is about as good a means as may be found, and it is an unpalatable outrage to permit some small odd number of citizens—among them not a few persons whose offices were obtained by methods which would not bear the light—to nullify the popular will. Federal and State legislatures have an easy remedy in their hands. There is always the remedy of impeachment and dismissal for any cause good in the legislative mind and less drastic—without inquiring what most has made these Chambers so conspicuously gross—would be an attack through their stomachs by legislative refusal to pass an appropriation bill carrying their pay. The matter is wholly in the hands of the legislatures, and these legislatures will bring about judicial reformation with ridiculous celerity as soon as the will of the people is plainly shown. There may be a few persons left who hold to the remnant of belief in the sanctity of the courts, but surely they have never witnessed the jockeying of judicial candidates before a legislative body nor followed the crooked alleys that lead to appointive favor.

Two Problems.  
 A dealer sells for 75 pounds a block of ice 2 feet by 10 inches by 9 inches. If ice weighs 52-100 as much as water, and the weight of water be 62½ pounds per cubic foot, what is the weight of the block of ice?

A train makes a mile in 2-1-3 minutes leaves 1½ hours before another makes a mile in 1½ minutes. In what time will the second catch the first?  
 R. E. YOUNG.

By multiplication of the dimensions, the block is found to contain 5-4 of a cubic foot of ice, and this multiplied by 5-4 gives 11-1-4 pounds as the true weight of the "75-pound" block.

Dividing the rates given into 60, you have 40 miles an hour and 25-7-7 miles an hour as the rates of the trains. The difference, 14-2-7 miles an hour, will make a mile in 25 minutes. In what time will the second catch the first?  
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## National State and City Bank

Richmond, Va.

Capital, \$1,000,000.

Surplus, \$250,000.

Assets, \$1,250,000.